

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV .. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

Specifically, I'm most interested in the increased offerings of HDTV once the merger is approved. These services can't be provided by the separate satellite companies because of bandwidth issues. And, cable companies will start charging a small fortune for them, because currently cable companies have no real competition when it comes to HDTV offerings.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices, more HDTV and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Off topic a bit, but as long as I have your attention, something also needs to be done to get a new antenna tower built in NYC. The loss of the WTC on 9/11 severely impacted the number of HDTV stations I now can receive. Pressure from the federal government on NYC officials could speed up the process of getting the tower replaced. Mayor Blumberg seems to feel the tower isn't needed because of cable TV, but these off the air HDTV signals are sent to me free, I don't need to pay cable for them. Mayor Blumberg also opposes using Governors Island for this project. But Governors Island would be an ideal site. Please support these efforts. I need your help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Adam Okula
10 Coptor Court
Huntington, NY 11743

